

The Goochland Courier

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Honored by General Assembly

By Simon Owens
Staff writer

On January 12, the Virginia General Assembly passed a House Joint Resolution commending Timothy Moore, a Goochland County resident, for his extraordinary contributions in volunteer work. Moore, who currently lives in Rockville, graduated in 2005 from the American School, a correspondence school located in Lansing, Illinois, with a College Preparatory High School Diploma. He first began volunteering with non-profit groups when he was only six years old. "Volunteering is a family tradition," he said. "[It] includes my brother and grandmother before she passed away in November 2000."

Moore has worked with the American Cancer Society, Autism Society of America; Central Virginia Chapter, For the Love of Animals in Goochland (FLAG) and the National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN). His many volunteer opportunities are highlighted at voicefor-gapkids.com.

Developing emergency tote bags for seniors is the most notable volunteer work in which he has been involved. These plastic cases carry a number of materials that a senior citizen would need if he or she were alone and experienced some kind of medical emergency. To create the bags, he compiled a checklist from several sources including the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Organization on Disabilities (NOD).

"I have many mentors mainly through the NYLN," Moore said. "These fine mentors are available to me with just a click of my mouse."

During his free time, he is into fitness and body building, and works part-time at the Goochland YMCA.

"I also like to shoot baskets and watch football and wrestling," he said.

The House Joint Resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Timothy Michael Moore of Rockville, a graduate of the American School, was selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Network 2005 Advanced Youth Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, Tim Moore was selected as a presenter at the Virginia Transition Forum 2005 in Williamsburg, Division on Career Development and Transition 13th International Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Aspire, Achieve, Empower: First National Conference on Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities held in Boston in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Tim Moore is a resource consultant and serves as a member of the Mentorship Committee for the National Youth Leadership Network; and

WHEREAS, Tim Moore founded A Voice for GAP Kids, a support group that provides information, education, and advocacy to special education students known as GAP Kids or Gray-area Kids; and

WHEREAS, Tim Moore demonstrated the values of service learning by planning Are You Ready?

Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities held on April 22, 2006, in observance of National Youth Service Day 2006; over 145 tote bags full of information and items needed for disaster preparation were provided at no cost to participants; and

WHEREAS, an inspirational and articulate advocate for people in need, Tim Moore is dedicated to providing workshops and presentations on disaster preparedness to people with disabilities, senior citizens, and caregivers throughout the Metro Richmond area through the Are You Ready? Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities, Part 11, service learning project; and

WHEREAS, Tim Moore is committed to giving back to the community through his service to numerous nonprofit organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Autism Society of America-

Central Virginia, and FLAG, For the Love of Animals in Goochland; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate Timothy Michael Moore on his outstanding accomplishments and wish him well with his current service learning project, as well as all of his future endeavors; and be it RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Timothy Michael Moore as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his dedication and commitment to citizens in need in the Commonwealth.

Photo: Tim Moore stands with Delegate Frank D. Hargrove Sr., District 55, the House Patron of House Joint Resolution NO. 619 which commends Moore for the volunteer work he has performed.

Old People's Riding Club connects people and horses

By Aynsley Fisher
For The Courier

What's in a name? To members of the Rockville chapter of the Old People's Riding Club (OPRC), nobody gets too hung up on semantics.

The club, formed in 2002, now boasts more than 100 members and is the largest OPRC chapter in the country. With members in nearly every surrounding county, OPRC keeps a busy calendar, with a variety of riding events, educational opportunities, and most importantly, a chance to get together with friends who are united by their shared interest in horses.

President Cindie Willoughby talked about how she discovered the OPRC.

"I bought my own place and had horses, but didn't have a trailer," she said. "I really wanted to get out and do things with my horses, so I started looking around at local organizations."

Willoughby found out about OPRC and started attending meetings.

"At first I didn't know anybody, but I really enjoyed the group," she said.

The rest they say is history!

According to Willoughby, one of the most rewarding aspects of the club is meeting people with similar interests.

The club is open to persons who are over 21 years of age and welcomes riders of all disciplines.

Membership for the year costs \$35 and includes monthly meetings that feature an educational speaker. Last year's speakers included vets and farriers, and covered a wide variety of topics including drill team riding, trail safety and defense, foaling and imprinting, natural hoof care, ground driving, sidesaddle, re-enacting, foxhunting, and emergency horse care.

Another benefit of membership is a club sponsored rally that is free to members and offers classes in dressage, games, barrel racing and more.

"My favorite thing is the rally. We all ride in it, organize it, and volunteer during the day. It's a great event, and you'll see all kinds of riders out there," she said. "We have people riding dressage tests in Western saddles and others racing barrels in English tack!"

Tara Dean of Louisa has been an active member since the club's inception five years ago.

"I served as chairman of our first rally. It was really one of my great loves! The goal was to have a day of fun where members could come together and try their hand at different disciplines," she said.

The club includes members who enjoy many different aspects of riding including western, fox hunting, trail riding, English hunt seat, dressage, gaited horses, and people who drive carriages.

"The rally was meant to be all inclusive and wasn't about the person with the fanciest horse or the most experience getting all the glory, but instead about camaraderie and having a good time," Dean said.

One year, Dean fell off her horse trying to get it to step over a tarp. At the rally, judges can award extra points for survival skills or falling off.

Dean laughed, "I was willing to sacrifice my body to get over that tarp and I still didn't win!"

However, the Tara Dean Memorial Award is now given to subsequent people who fall off during the rally.

A software developer for Shaw Systems, Dean runs a small Oldenburg breeding farm in Louisa with her husband. They stand an Oldenburg stallion, Weltmann by Weltstern, and have two to three foals per year. On weekends Dean enjoys fox hunting with Reedy Creek Hounds, trail riding, training and showing her horses in addition to running their breeding operation.

Debbie Bader of Goochland joined OPRC last year when a friend invited her to the annual tack swap

and pot luck dinner meeting.

"Everyone was so friendly, I felt right at home," said Bader who was a newcomer to Virginia and wanted to find places to trail ride. For her, OPRC was just the right fit.

"I ride Western, but what I loved about the group is that they welcome all riders. I've made so many friends and it really is a great support group for information," she said.

Bader works full-time as a financial analyst.

"It's hard to find enough time to spend with my horses, but with OPRC activities, I always have something to look forward to that keeps me motivated to make time," she said.

Like Bader, Willoughby is a Western rider. Her philosophy as president is simple. She likes the 'pay it forward' concept."

Wanting to help a local charity, OPRC selected the United States Equine Rescue League (USERL). In January, USERL came and gave a talk about their organization to chapter members.

"The turnout was huge," said Willoughby, "and we had arranged to bring items from their wish list. The two speakers from USERL left with every inch of their mini-vans packed with donated goods. If I had to guess, I'd say that we pulled together anywhere from \$3000-\$5000 worth of both new and used goods that they desperately need for specific horses or health needs."

She added, "We started out this year paying it forward. We are not a rich club, but our strengths are in our ability to volunteer and our desire to make a difference."

OPRC has also lent its support to another local organization, Friends of Hanover Trails (FOHT). FOHT was formed to support the creation of March Park, 221.5 acres situated in both the Town of Ashland and Hanover County, left by the March family. Designated as a non-motorized park, there will be six miles of trails that will be geared for horses, pedestrians, and bicycles. With trail building imminent, volunteers are needed.

Willoughby, also a member of FOHT, stepped up and issued a challenge to neighboring organizations to organize a master list of volunteers for March Park.

"The Mechanicsville Riding Club jumped in immediately with 25 volunteers and I've also contacted Western Riders of Virginia, and, of course, OPRC. We all will benefit from the park, and the best way we can help is by providing manpower," she said.

In addition to the rally, the OPRC offers many riding outings. There are trail rides with some overnight trips. One favorite overnight destination is to a Chesapeake Bay bed and breakfast. The highlight of that trip is riding horses on the beaches and in the Bay.

With summer riding camp for adults, Halloween spook-a-thon (a bombproofing clinic), spring fling (which benefits the Lexington Horse Center), and numerous other events, the OPRC keeps busy.

New members are always welcome and meeting are held in the Rockville Library the third Tuesday of each month. The only requirement aside from being over 21 is that riders must have at least a D1 rating which ensures that they know basic riding skills and safety.

Colleen and Jim Leahy of Beavertown got into horses eight or nine years ago. Both in their mid 60's, they were really excited to hear about the OPRC. Jim's retired and Colleen is cutting back her shifts as an emergency room nurse. They keep four horses and have a lot of time to spoil them rotten!

"It really is a great club. We enjoy Western trail riding and have met so many new friends. There is something for everyone, no matter what your interests," she said.

Wendy Dubiel, who serves as membership chairman, is a real estate agent with Long and Foster, specializing in country, horse property, as well as suburbia.

She began riding in her teens in Canada when her family vacationed there from their home in Western New York.

She showed for a long time, and then did pleasure riding while she raised two kids. Her husband, Fred, loves horses as well, and Wendy says that he is a great "ground" person and has shown babies in hand.

"I got back into showing after I had some success with re-training TB's off the racetrack. The last year though I have had my granddaughter, Maria, do leadline classes, and I think I will let her take over the showing portions and I will do pleasure and dabble with some of the race track 'rescues'," she said.

Dubiel said she is honored to have the opportunity to serve the OPRC as membership chairperson and hopes to make some new horse people friends!

Willoughby has many equestrian interests. She's a member of the Southern Express Drill Team, "the fastest drill team in the east!" They travel and perform at venues like the Equine Extravaganza.

In addition to OPRC, FOHT, and the drill team, Willoughby is also a member of Western Riders of Virginia. At home she has three horses, with a foal on the way, two potbellied pigs, three goats, five dogs, and an assortment of chickens and barn cats.

With a career as a real estate appraiser and a passion for antique cars, specifically her 1957 Plymouth Fury, she keeps busy.

"At the Old People's Riding Club we have fun," said Willoughby. "The whole thing is about comradery, about connecting people with common interests, about continuing to learn about horses, about riding and about helping others."

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